

## The Space Program - 2

# Allen Dulles Confirms U. S. in Race With Reds

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles by Congressman Ken Hechler on testimony before the House Committee on Science and Astronautics investigating the space program).

By REP. KEN HECHLER

On Jan. 21, the House Committee on Science and Astronautics held an "executive session" to hear Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency. An executive session, as distinguished from a public session, means that the press and public are excluded and a stenographic transcript is not made of the questions and answers of the witness.

Our committee tries to hold the number of executive sessions to an absolute minimum. They are held for two purposes: (1) to hear secret testimony which cannot be revealed to the public for reasons of security; or (2) to discuss the wording of a bill or other internal committee matter on which members want to present their points of view freely without being "on the record." The committee feels that the American people deserve to have as much information as possible about the space program; hence the preponderance of open hearings.

On Jan. 22, George V. Allen, a veteran career diplomat who is Director of the United States Information Agency, appeared before our committee. U.S.I.A. is responsible for the Voice of America, cultural programs abroad, and the distribution of books, periodicals and other materials overseas, in order to give foreign nations a clearer picture of our country.

In his prepared testimony, Mr. Allen stated: "The successful launching of Sputnik I. created an intensity of reaction throughout the world which has rarely been paralleled by any other single discovery or invention. The achievement of placing in orbit the first earth satellite, without great advance fanfare, increased the prestige of the Soviet Union tremendously and produced a corresponding loss of U. S. prestige, due primarily to the contrast. As time passed, highly colored press and radio treatment of space matters gave way to more sophisticated judgments and more balanced reactions. This welcome change was helped greatly by our successes in launching a series of satellites and obtaining information from them, although our payloads were of a lesser magnitude than those of the Soviet Union. We also began to see editorials abroad which pointed out the difference between American openness in letting the world in on our failures as well as our successes, and Soviet failure to announce attempts as well as achievements."

In questioning Mr. Allen, I attempted to bring out his own philosophy of our information program as it related to space matters, and then followed up with some queries as to the extent to which America should portray its material wealth as its "image" overseas. The following is a stenographic transcript of our remarks:

The Chairman. Mr. Hechler. Mr. Hechler. Mr. Allen, I think you are on the right track. I like the way that you described the American openness in letting the world in on our failures as well as our successes.

Even though both of us deplore some of the fanfare which preceded Vanguard in 1957, I wonder if in the long run this strategy of truth won't really pay great dividends for our country.

Mr. Allen. I think it will but I want to be careful, Congressman — trying again to be as honest as I possibly can — to differentiate between straight factual reporting and a dramatic buildup of expectations through the manner in which it is presented, either by Government officials or by radio commentators, or by press columnists. I would plead for a truthful but dignified presentation.

Mr. Hechler. I am in wholehearted agreement with that. I have always felt that the best public information program is one that involves some mild humility, perhaps tinged with a little pessimism now and then, coupled with concrete results. I guess you are sort of like a river. You can't rise above your source, and you have to have results in order to talk about them.

Shifting to another question, what information have you secured about the image of this country abroad in our emphasis on the production of consumer goods, luxury and our emphasis upon the frills, such as larger tail fins, rather than our desire to build the foundation of national strength, through a stronger space program, national defense, and the use of our national strength in the protection of the ideals we believe in?

Have you observed any foreign reaction to this?

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